

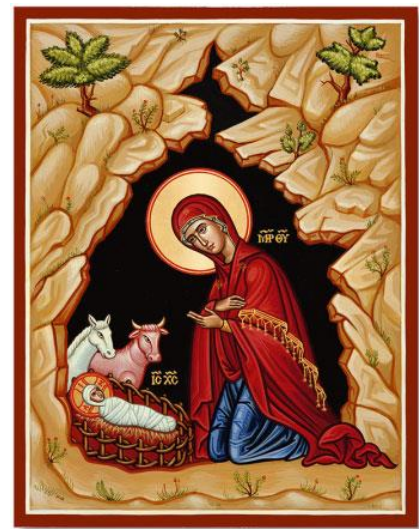
**Christmas Evening Prayer**  
**Theme: No Room in the Inn**

**Gathering Song:**

**Reading:** Luke 2: 1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. *She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”



And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” One cried out to the other: “Holy, holy, holy\* is the LORD of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!” At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook and the house was filled with smoke.

**Reading:** Laudato Si 152: Another citation from the previous encyclical: *At the same time, creativity should be shown in integrating rundown neighborhoods into a welcoming city: “How beautiful those cities which overcome paralyzing mistrust, integrate those who are different and make this very integration a new factor of development! How attractive are those cities which, even in their architectural design, are full of spaces which connect, relate and favor the recognition of others!”*[*Evangelii Gaudium* 210]

**For reflection and sharing during this Christmas season:**

- What steps will these readings inspire me to take?
- How can I be made aware of those who are homeless?
- How have I lived my option for those who are poor?

**Closing:** “Let me be clear. There is no social or moral justification. No justification whatsoever, for the lack of housing.” Pope Francis, Washington DC, September 23—24, 2015.